

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 HEW-02 /024 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR ETRD JA

SUBJ: CITRUS/FUNGICIDES AND SO2 IN POTATOES

REFS: A) 16JUN BUTZ LETTER TO MAF ABE

B) 23JUL BALL LETTER TO MIYAZAWA

C) TOKYO 10003

FROM LLOYD

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

1. SUMMARY: MHW AGAIN INSISTS THAT MAF IS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO APPROVAL OF OPP AND TBZ. THEY SAY MAF'S NEUTRAL POSITION IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW MHW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH APPROVAL. MHW WILL PLAN TO SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATION RE SO2 IN DEHYDRATED POTATOES TO FOOD SANITATION INVESTIGATION COUNCIL (FSIC) WHEN IT MEETS NEXT, QTE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR UNQTE.

2. MESSRS. WADSWORTH, HOLLOWAY, TAKESHITA AND KIYOMIYA MET WITH DR. MIYAZAWA, DIRECTOR, FOOD CHEMISTRY DIV., MHW AND STAFF RE SUBJECT ON JULY 31. THIS WAS FIRST FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WITH MIYAZAWA BY AGATT REPS SINCE BEFORE MAF RECEIVED REF A.

3. AGATT REPS STATED THAT IT APPEARED NOW AS RESULT OF REF A THAT MAF HAS MOVED FROM PREVIOUS POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO CURRENT NEUTRALITY ON BOTH SUBJECT ISSUES. AGATT REPS ALSO DELIVERED REF B TO MIYAZAWA AND URGED THAT HE MOVE FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON APPROVAL OF INCREASED TOLERANCE LEVEL FOR SO2 IN DEHYDRATED POTATOES.

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4. AFTER READING REF B MIYAZAWA SAID HE WOULD PLAN TO INCLUDE PET-
ITON ON SO2 TOLERANCE IN MATERIAL SUBMITTED AT NEXT FSIC MTG.,
WHICH WILL MOST LIKELY BE HELD LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT. HIS
WILLINGNESS TO GO FORTH ON THIS APPEARS TO BE DEPENDENT TO GREAT
EXTENT ON HOKUREN NOT OPPOSING AS SUGGESTED IN REF B.

5. HOWEVER, RE FUNGICIDES APPROVAL, MIYAZAWA DID NOT RESPOND SO
POSITIVELY. HE SAID A NEUTRAL POSITION FROM MAF ALTHOUGH BETTER
THAN OPPOSITION IS NOT REPEAT NOT GOOD ENOUGH. HE EXPLAINED THAT
SINCE JAPAN'S CONSUMER GROUPS HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO DEMAND
THAT MHW (A) REDUCE THE NUMBER OF APPROVED FOOD ADDITIVES AND (B)
APPROVE NO MORE NEW ADDITIVES, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT MAF PLAY A
MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN GETTING ANY NEW ADDITIVE APPROVED. MHWS
MAIN JOB IS TO DETERMINE THE SAFETY OF ANY PROPOSED NEW ADDITIVE,
BUT MAF'S DUTY IS TO CONVINCE CONSUMER GROUPS THAT THE PROPOSED
NEW ADDITIVE IS NEEDED, I.E., WILL BENEFIT CONSUMERS ECONOMICALLY
OR OTHERWISE. HE SAID IT IS AMUSING THAT MAF CAN LET GREATER PORK
OR BEEF IMPORTS IN IF DOMESTIC PRICES GET TO HIGH, BUT THEY CAN'T
OR WON'T DO ANYTHING WHEN LEMON PRICES GET HIGH.

6. AGATT REPS EXPLAINED THAT IT IS NOT AGATT'S PLACE TO TELL MAF
WHAT THEIR DUTY IS BUT IT IS HOPED THAT SOME ONE IN THE GOJ WILL
REMIND THEM OF THEIR (MAF'S) RESPONSIBILITIES TO CONSUMERS. HOW-
EVER, ONE WOULD HARDLY EXPECT TO FIND MAF CONSUMER ORIENTED AS
OPPOSED TO PRODUCER ORIENTED.

7. MIYAZAWA STATED THAT MAF'S POSITION OF NON-SUPPORT REMAINS THE
SINGLE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO THE SOLUTION OF THE FUNGICIDE ISSUE.

8. ACTION SUGGESTED: SEC BUTZ MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A STRONG VERBAL
REQUEST TO MIN ABE DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GIVE MHW THE
SUPPORT IT NEEDS ON THIS ISSUE. OTHERWISE IT WILL APPEAR THAT MAF
IS USING IT AS AN NTB.

9. SENDING VIA INTL AIRMAIL PHOTOGRAPHS OF U.S. LEMONS ROTTING ON
JAPAN'S DOCKS DUE TO LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNGICIDE PROTECTION. ON THE
AVERAGE, FULLY 60 PERCENT OF THE FRUIT MUST BE DISCARDED BEFORE A
GIVEN SHIPMENT ACTUALLY REACHES THE RETAIL LEVEL. CURRENT RETAIL
PRICES ARE AROUND 35 CENTS PER LEMON, OVER DOUBLE PREVAILING PRICE
BEFORE APRIL 4.

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SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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